

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES
SPECIAL OPEN DOOR FORUM:
WAGE INDEX REFORM**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008
2pm-4pm Eastern Time
Conference Call Only**

The purpose of this Special Open Door Forum (ODF) is to provide an opportunity for the public to discuss and share their opinions, suggestions, and expertise on the wage index and alternative methods for computing the wage index. Participants will be asked to comment on the 9 matters related to the wage index that Section 106(b)(2) of the MIEA-TRHCA requires CMS to consider, the MedPAC's recommendations, and CMS's proposals in the FY 2009 IPPS proposed rule. The comment period for the FY 2009 IPPS proposed rule ends on June 13, 2008 (see the Federal Register, volume 73, page 23528, April 30, 2008, for instructions on submitting comments for the proposed rule).

Background:

Section 106(b)(1) of the Medicare Improvements and Extension Act, Division B of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-432; MIEA-TRHCA) required the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) to submit a report on the hospital wage index by June 30, 2007, including recommendations on alternatives for computing the wage index. The MedPAC's report was included in the Commission's June 2007 Report to Congress. In addition, section 106(b)(2) of the MIEA-TRHCA required CMS to take into account the MedPAC's recommendations and include in the FY 2009 proposed rule for the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) one or more proposals that consider nine specific issues related to the wage index. CMS awarded a Task Order to Acumen, LLC to assist CMS in evaluating the impact of MedPAC's recommended revisions to the hospital wage index and in developing one or more proposals to revise the wage index.

Note: Participants who are unable to present their comments during the Special ODF, or are unable to elaborate within the 2 minute time frame allotted for commenting, will be able to submit them to CMS following the Special ODF via the following email address, CMS_Wage_Index_ODF@cms.hhs.gov. Submitting your comments to this email address will not replace the formal comment submission process listed in the Federal Register.

We look forward to your participation.

Open Door Participation Instructions:

Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 46680542

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click [here](#)

<http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> . A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

An audio recording of this Special Forum will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp and will be accessible for downloading beginning **May 28, 2008**.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (E-Mailing list subscriptions) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoorforums/>

Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.